



COVID-19 Substance Use and Misuse Prevention Guidance

Updated April 23, 2020

Please note: As the situation with COVID-19 is constantly evolving, this guidance document does not include all HHSC guidance relevant to Substance Use and Misuse Prevention providers. The FAQ document located at the link below is updated when new information is available, so please routinely review it.

<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-provider-information>

HHSC realizes that substance use and misuse prevention programs are deeply rooted in communities across Texas, and, as public health concerns increase, it is incumbent upon HHSC to provide guidance to ensure the safety of the prevention workforce and the community in which your organization provides services. HHSC wishes to remain vigilant in its support of substance use and misuse prevention programs and feels it is imperative that it suspend required contractual performance measures until the COVID-19 pandemic can be further evaluated and the threat to public health is mitigated.

Outlined below are related impacts and HHSC's expectations and recommendations regarding substance use and misuse prevention programs, including Youth Prevention Indicated (YPI), Youth Prevention Selective (YPS), Youth Prevention Universal (YPU), Community Coalition Partnerships (CCP), Prevention Resource Centers (PRC), and Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS) programs.

While HHSC is making recommendations on specific performance measures, it is up to the organization to identify ways their workforce can continue to reach and impact the community in other areas, if the organization has the capacity to do so. Of course, organizations are advised to follow the recommendations set forth by Gov. Greg Abbott, specific guidelines from their local public health departments, and those of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Texas Department of State Health Services.

Performance Measures

HHSC intends to suspend the enforcement of certain performance measures that require face-to-face interaction related to all prevention contracts from March 15,



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2020, until further notice. Organizations that have the capacity should continue to provide prevention engagement services utilizing web-based and/or media platforms — including agency websites, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and any other traditional media platform — to educate and mobilize the community and promote health and wellness during this challenging time.

HHSC does not recommend face-to-face services or activities that may place your staff or community in imminent risk or danger. Prevention services via virtual platforms, such as Google Classroom, are encouraged if available and utilized in your community schools or districts.

Performance Measures Not Affected

HHSC intends to continue reporting the following performance measures for the specified programs:

YPU, YPS, YPI

- Number of social media messages related to the statewide media campaign.

CCP

- Number of media awareness activities focused on the state's four prevention priorities and the statewide media campaign.
- Number of social media messages focused on the state's four prevention priorities and the statewide media campaign.
- Number of media contacts focused on the state's four prevention priorities.

PRC

- Number of media awareness activities focused on the state's four prevention priorities and the statewide media campaign.
- Number of social media messages focused on the state's four prevention priorities and the statewide media campaign.



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- Number of media contacts focused on the state's four prevention priorities.
- Number of prevention trainings coordinated or hosted in the region (all must be web-based).
- Number of adults attending trainings coordinated or hosted in the region (all must be web-based).

Areas and Activities Specifically Affected

YP programs

HHSC supports communities in teaching curricula lessons virtually in accordance with the guidance established by the developer. For more information on current developer guidance, please visit texaspreventiontraining.org click on the Free Resources Friday link in the rotating banner at the top of the page. HHSC is working with C.A.R.E. Consulting to update resources as they become available. HHSC does not wish to track virtual lessons in the Clinical Management for Behavioral Health Services (CMBHS) system as evidence-based curricula delivery given the adaptation to model fidelity. HHSC is developing a mechanism to track web-based/virtual delivery of the evidence-based prevention curricula and intends to distribute this document to organizations through usual communication methods, such as distribution lists and prevention forums. HHSC will not enforce contractual requirements around pre- and post-tests at this time but defers to curriculum developers for the implementation and specific requirements related to curriculum pre- and post-tests.

Tobacco coordinators

Voluntary tobacco retailer compliance checks are not encouraged at this time to keep staff and the community safe.

Data coordinators

Regional Needs Assessment (RNA) development, data-gathering and other administrative functions related to the RNA may be conducted remotely and in coordination with HHSC.



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Reporting

- Prevention performance measures are to continue being reported into the Clinical Management for Behavioral Health Services (CMBHS) system by the 15th of the month following the month being reported, as outlined in the Statement of Work.
- All performance measures must be entered in CMBHS as the organization maintains all documentation of the suspension of communitywide efforts (school and district closures, business closures, etc.) and barriers and challenges to providing services to the community.
- YPU, YPS, YPI — The date for submitting the required summer term Curriculum Implementation Plan (CIP) will not change at this time.
- CCP — The required CCP Implementation Plan and related documentation, due March 30, 2020, is postponed until further notification by HHSC.
- PRC — The date for the submission of the required Regional Needs Assessment will not change at this time.

Suggested Activities

- Virtual activities and events via Instagram, Facebook and other social media platforms can be used to engage the community and promote positive, healthy choices.
- Posting of statewide and local media content on organizational Facebook and Instagram platforms is encouraged.
- HHSC encourages organizations to contact their assigned program specialist to strategize any unique options for virtual service delivery. Once approved, these methods and activities may be shared on the prevention forums to further their implementation and reach.

Training

The HHSC Texas Prevention Training (TPT) entity, C.A.R.E Consulting along with public relations coordinators, are working together to provide and promote online training opportunities so the prevention workforce may continue to build capacity



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and prepare to support communities. Web-based trainings — such as the 15-hour Prevention Skills, Prevention Ethics and ASK About Suicide courses — will occur as scheduled at this time.

In addition, the prevention workforce may still access web-based versions of the Positive Action, Botvin LifeSkills and Strengthening Families (7-17) curriculum trainings, all scheduled on the TPT website.

Organizations are encouraged to continue monitoring the TPT website at texaspreventiontraining.org. Public relations coordinators are also encouraged to continue utilizing web-based and social media platforms to engage and inform the community on prevention and other behavioral health-related information and trainings.

Finally, the TPT contractor has posted several web-based training opportunities that are of importance at this time, including Psychological First Aid, the LivingWorks Start suicide prevention training and others on the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services.